



Home, where they belong: Some of the documents on Muzium Negara that are being displayed for the first time.

Bringing home a national treasure

Documents on Muzium Negara on display for the first time

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FOR many years, documents of Malaysian historical significance were in the possession of a private Singaporean collector.

When bank officer turned art and antique collector Henry Bong met the Singaporean collector and found out that he was keeping a precious piece of our national heritage, he decided to bring it home.

Thus, the documents, detailing the early days of Muzium Negara and bound in a folder, have returned to Kuala Lumpur and Malaysians will get to see them at a special exhibition

organised by Bong's private gallery, Pucuk Rebong, and Mandarin Oriental Kuala Lumpur.

"I first saw the documents in 1995 and wondered why they should be kept in Singapore rather than Malaysia. I knew I had to obtain the folder and bring it home to Malaysia," said Bong, managing director of Pucuk Rebong Royal Gallery Museum.

"Muzium Negara is one of the country's most iconic and historically significant buildings. This makes the folder a document of national importance and it should reside in Malaysia," he said.

Bong said the documents contained concept drawings and building plans of Muzium Negara, construction photos

and news clippings from the period.

The folder is being displayed for the first time at the Merdeka Gallery on the second floor of the hotel to commemorate Malaysia's 50th year of Independence.

Also on display are other artefacts showing the historical development of Malaysia since the early 16th century.

The exhibition was launched by Deputy Culture, Arts and Heritage Minister Datuk Wong Kam Hoong on Monday.

"Malaysia has a cultural diversity, which can be turned into a strength of the country," said Wong.

The gallery is open to public from 10am to 8pm daily, until Sept 16.